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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

801040001-0 25X1A 1471

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

DATE OF I

Iraq/Middle East

DATE DISTR. 15 September 1948

SUBJECT

Vists of Iraqi Regent and Prime Linister to Amman and Cairo for Discussion of NO. OF PAGES 2

Joint Arab Offensive

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.

(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

21 August 1948

- Regent 'Abd-al-Ilah and Prime Minister Muzahim Pachachi of Iraq visited Ammen, Transjordan, and Calro on 21 August for discussions with King 'Abdullah of Transjordan and King Faruq of Egypt regarding the renewal of a joint Arab offensive in Palestine.
- 2. The Iraqi Cabinet believed that King 'Abdullah would not be persuaded to join in further military action without a definite promise of full Egyptian support, and that Egypt was not inclined to continue its association with the Levant States and the Hashimites.
- 3. 'Abd-al-Ilah and Pachachi were optimistic about persuading King Faruq to join the Arab military effort, thus gaining 'Abdullah's support. They realized, however, that if they failed they would have to consider Traqi withdrawal from Palestine.
- 1. The Iraqi Government is faced with maintaining internal security as well as with military reports of Iran's possible renewal of its claim to Shatt al-Arab. The Iraqi Ministry of Defense has recommended placing a strong force in that area. Faiq Samarrai, Secretary General of the Independence Party, stated that his party feels that this is only a rumor, "spread by the defeatists."

6 September 1948

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5. Muzahim Pachachi's goal for unification of the Arab command in Palestine has failed completely. Mahmud Nuqrashi, Prime Minister of Egypt, refused closer cooperation on the basis that British officers in the Transjordan Army would learn all of Egypt's military secrets. Further problems arose as a result of the Syrian Government's suspicion of King 'Abdullah, and the belief that the quarrel between King 'Abdullah and the Regent of Iraq was only a dodge to facilitate 'Abdullah's Greater Syria scheme.

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- 6. It has been agreed that the Arab armies will remain on the defensive for the present.
- 7. Regent 'Abd-al-Ilah left Amman for Alexandria on L September to ask King Faruq to arrange Egyptian fighter protection for Iraqi bombers, a request that had previously been refused by Prime Minister Nugrashi.
- 8. Iraq, Egypt, Transjordan, and Saudi Arabia are in favor of disbanding Fawzi Qawuqji's irregulars because of the cost and Qawuqji's arrogance, as evidenced by his refusal to disclose the strength of the irregulars.

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